

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 7 and 12.

Amend the following claims:

1. (once amended) A concentration device using magnetic particles comprising:
a liquid suction passage in which liquid can pass through only in a suction direction;
a liquid discharge passage in which liquid can pass through only in a discharge direction;

A 
magnetic force means which can exert a magnetic field from outside of the liquid passage on at least one liquid passage thereof or remove the magnetic field, and which can separate magnetic particles having directly or indirectly captured a target substance suspended in the liquid by having the magnetic particles adhere to the inner wall of the liquid passage;
a storage section communicated with each liquid passage, for storing the sucked liquid; and
pressure adjustment means for sucking and discharging the liquid by adjusting the pressure in the storage section,
wherein said storage section is provided detachably with respect to said pressure adjustment means, and a liquid whose volume is larger than the maximum volume capable of being sucked into or discharged from the storage section at the time of only either suction or discharge, is continually passed through the storage section, so that the magnetic particles are separated.

4. (once amended) A concentration device using magnetic particles according to claim 3, wherein said magnetic force means is obtained by providing a permanent magnet, an electromagnet or a magnetic substance outside of at least one of said liquid passages.

5. (once amended) A concentration device using magnetic particles according to claim 3, wherein said storage section has a cylinder, and said pressure adjustment means has a plunger inserted into said cylinder so as to slide therein.

6. (once amended) A concentration device using magnetic particles according to any one of claims 2 to claim 3, wherein said pressure adjustment means has an air flow path provided in said storage section, and a pump for performing suction and discharge of a gas in said storage section via said air flow path.

A7

8. 7 (once amended) A concentration device using magnetic particles according to claim 1, wherein when said storage section is detached, said pressure adjustment means can be mounted with one pipette tip, in which the liquid can pass through both in the suction direction and the discharge direction.

A7

9. (once amended) A concentration device using magnetic particles according to claim 3, wherein hydroxyapatite is sintered and secured to said magnetic particles, and the pH of the solution containing the magnetic particles suspended therein is adjusted to change the hydroxyapatite to a sol form or a gel form, to thereby make the hydroxyapatite capture or alienate the target substance.

10. (once amended) A concentration device using magnetic particles comprising:
a liquid passage having a suction port and a discharge port, in which liquid can pass therethrough;

magnetic force means which can exert a magnetic field from outside of the liquid passage to inside of a part of the liquid passage, which can separate magnetic particles having directly or indirectly captured a target substance suspended in the liquid, by having the magnetic particles adhere to an inner wall of the part of the liquid passage; and

a pump provided in the liquid passage, for transferring the liquid along a transfer direction of the liquid in the liquid passage,

Wherein at least the part of the liquid passage is provided so as to be able to be taken out, while attracting the separated magnetic particles.

A8

11

13. (once amended) A concentration device using magnetic particles according to any one of claim 10 to claim 11, wherein hydroxyapatite is sintered and secured to the magnetic particles, and the pH of the solution containing the magnetic particles suspended therein is adjusted to change the hydroxyapatite to a sol form or a gel form, to thereby make the hydroxyapatite capture or alienate the target substance.

A9

15

17. (once amended) A concentration method using magnetic particles comprising:
a capture step for capturing a target substance such as bacteria in a suspension directly or indirectly by magnetic particles;
a separation step for separating the magnetic particles by exerting a magnetic field from outside of a liquid passage to the inside of the liquid passage to thereby attract the magnetic

particles to an inner wall of the passage, at a time of passing a suspension having a first volume and in which the magnetic particles which have captured the target substance are suspended, through the liquid passage;

A^a
B^b
a re-suspension step for re-suspending the magnetic particles which have captured the target substance in the liquid, by passing a liquid having a second volume smaller than the first volume through the liquid passage in which the magnetic particles which have captured the target substance have been separated, in a state with the magnetic field not exerted on the liquid passage; and

B^b
an elution step for eluting the target substance from the magnetic particles which have captured the target substance suspended in the liquid, and separating only the magnetic particles to obtain a suspension in which the target substance is concentrated.

A^a
B^b
20. (once amended) A concentration method using magnetic particles according to claim 19 wherein, in a container storing the suspension re-suspended in the re-suspension step, the magnetic particles in the suspension are separated and then re-suspended in a liquid having a third volume smaller than the second volume, by sucking and discharging the suspension, with a magnetic field exerted on the liquid passage, by means of a pipette apparatus having a liquid passage in which liquid can pass through both in the suction direction and the discharge direction of the liquid, and a storage section communicated with the passage and having a capacity smaller than the second volume, and also having magnetic force means for exerting and removing a magnetic field to/from the liquid passage from outside of the liquid passage.

21. (once amended) A concentration method using magnetic particles according to claim 19, wherein said separation step shifts all of the liquid stored in a second container to a first container, after having shifted all of the suspension stored in the first container to the second container, by sucking the liquid stored in the second container via the liquid passage, and discharging the liquid to the first container via the liquid passage, with a magnetic field exerted on the liquid passage from outside.

22. (once amended) A concentration method using magnetic particles according to claim 19, wherein said separation step shifts all of the liquid stored in a second container to a first container, after having shifted all of the suspension stored in the first container to the second container, by sucking the liquid stored in the second container via a liquid suction passage, and ,